STATE OF ARIZONA
GOVERNMENT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AGENCY
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M E M O R A N D U M

To: Dan Hunting, JLBC Analyst

From: DJ Harper, GITA Legislative Liaison

Re: Public Safety Communications Advisory Commission Quarterly Report

Date: February 27, 2009

The Legislature moved the Public Safety Communications Advisory Commission (PSCC) to the Government Information Technology Agency from its prior home at the Department of Public Safety, retroactive to July 1, 2008. During the window of time between the beginning of the current fiscal year and the general effective date of this legislation, DPS and GITA worked closely to transfer the Commission to GITA. That transition was completed on October 2, 2008, and a status update on those transition activities, including the transfer of assets, reconciliation of contracts and obligations, identification and transfer of funding sources, and over 50 other transition issues, was provided to JLBC in the third quarter CY08 report.

In fourth quarter CY08, the Public Safety Interoperable Communications Office (PSIC) within GITA has focused its efforts in a number of key areas, including discovery regarding the current state of interoperable communications within the State; soliciting feedback and input in public forums from all major stakeholders and subject matter experts regarding the issues around interoperability; and re-framing the dialogue around progress and possible directions for the State in the context of the Arizona Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) which was approved by federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in April 2008. In addition, the GITA-PSIC Office has addressed all federal DHS requests and mandates during this timeframe.

<u>Key Accomplishments</u>

Each State and Territory was required to submit a SCIP to the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) within DHS by December 3, 2007 in accordance with the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant and the Homeland Security Grant Program. The SCIP, which was intended to guide all interoperable communication activities in the state, was developed under an aggressive timeline, allowing for only limited collaboration and consensus. In September of 2008, an updated SCIP Implementation Summary Report was submitted to federal DHS, to reflect changes associated with the transfer of PSCC to GITA, as well as to establish a new baseline

for measuring progress. In November of 2008, an all-day Interoperable Communications Stakeholder Working Session was sponsored by GITA-PSIC. This public meeting was facilitated by Dr. Jennifer Hendry of Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), and brought together State and local representatives and subject-matter experts to discuss key issues impacting the direction for achieving of communications interoperability in the State.

The SCIP Implementation Report, which is intended to guide all planning efforts within the state, outlines five key areas that must be in place for Arizona to achieve its mission and vision for interoperable communications: Governance and Funding, Standard Operating Procedures, Technology, Training and Exercise, Usage and Outreach. In fourth quarter CY08, key accomplishments for GITA-PSIC in each of these areas are as follows:

Governance and Funding
Joint meetings of the Public Safety Communications Advisory Commission (PSCC) and the Statewide Interoperability Executive Group (SIEC), which is a sub-committee of the PSCC, were re-instituted this quarter.

In addition, Arizona was one of six states awarded a federal DHS competitive grant to participate in the NGA Center for Best Practices *Interoperability: Focus on Governance* Policy Academy. The Policy Academy is designed to help selected states improve their governance structures that oversee statewide communications interoperability planning and implementation. The OEC also approved 3 of Arizona's *Technical Assistance Requests* (TARs) as part of the Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP), one of which addresses the area of Governance. The Academy, the *Governance Structures Assessment* TAR as well as the *Establishing Governance to Achieve Statewide Communications Interoperability - A Guide for SCIP Implementation* released by federal DHS, will continue to guide GITA-PSIC efforts to meet this important objective, in collaboration with the Governance Subcommittee of the PSCC.

To further address specific needs and priorities in Arizona, a Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) Implementation Workshop is scheduled for February 24th, 2009, facilitated by State OEC and ICTAP representatives of federal DHS. The focus of the Workshop is to help the State commence SCIP implementation in alignment with the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) released in July 2008.

Implementation of the SCIP and alignment with the NECP are considered critical to the realization of future federal grant funding opportunities for the State. Of the $17.7 million in federal interoperable communications grant funding awarded to the State in April 2008, GITA-PSIC was awarded $133 thousand in Management and Administration funding. Those grant funds along with $135 thousand in FFY08 DHS Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP) funding requested by and awarded to GITA-PSIC, will be applied to SCIP updates as well as refinement and advancement of a statewide governance structure. During this timeframe, GITA-PSIC also applied for $157 thousand in FFY09 IECGP grant funding to align the SCIP with the NECP, in addition to developing a statewide Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) framework.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
As indicated above, GITA-PSIC applied for $157 thousand in FFY09 IECGP grant funding to in part develop a statewide SOP framework.   Further one of Arizona's 3 *Technical Assistance*

Requests (TARs) approved by the OEC is to assist in the development and implementation of statewide operational and SOP standards, which will become the operational roadmap for interoperable communications in the State. Finally, GITA-PSIC has also worked closely with other IECGP grant applicants to establish partnerships that will advance efforts in regard to interoperability protocol and procedures development.

Technology
Based on discussions at the November 2008 Interoperable Communications Stakeholder Working Session regarding a recommendation by DPS, and with the subsequent concurrence of the PSCC, it was determined that the demonstration project has been completed. The project was successful in demonstrating one potential connectivity solution to meet future interoperable communication needs, and also provided ongoing functional enhancements to existing communications systems at the regional and State level.

As part of the transition of PSCC, a final draft of the PSCC Radio System Conceptual Design report was provided to GITA. This report produced by Federal Engineering conceptualizes an approach to achieve interoperability goals for the State as well as meet the FCC-mandated deadline of January 1, 2013 for narrow-banding all radio systems. Budgetary costs to the State to implement this approach were estimated at $217 million. As we understand that level of funding is not available at this time, GITA-PSIC is working closely with the Wireless Systems Bureau (WSB) of DPS as well as other regional/local partners around the State, to determine other long-term cost effective approaches to furthering the interoperability goals of the State. As those are identified, GITA-PSIC will report back to the JLBC and will continue to seek additional federal funding to further the State's technology objectives.

Other technology areas identified in the SCIP continue to be advanced by DPS/WSB. The Arizona Interagency Radio System (AIRS), a short-term interoperability solution with limited capacity but state-wide reach, is expected to be fully deployed in 2009. Significant progress continues to be made on the statewide digital Microwave backbone upgrade, as a critical component to any interoperability solution, with the support of State as well as federal funding, as reported by DPS/WSB. The Southern loop of this upgrade is scheduled to be complete in 2009, barring any funding issues.   Regional systems have made significant progress in Phoenix metro area, Yuma region and Pima County.

In addition, GITA has been acting as technical advisor to the Arizona Department of Homeland Security (AZDOHS) in reviewing grant applications from local communities and preparing investment justifications and other reports for federal Department of Homeland Security.

Training and Exercise
GITA-PSIC is working with the Arizona Department of Emergency Management (ADEM) and regional partners, to advance efforts to provide additional COM-L (Communications Unit Leader) and AIRS training state-wide.

One of Arizona's 3 *Technical Assistance Requests* (TARs) approved by the OEC is a Tabletop Exercise designed to assess communications plans, policies and procedures, as well as the types of communications systems needed to guide the prevention of, response to, and recovery from a defined event. GITA-PSIC is currently seeking a regional partner to host this exercise.

Usage and Outreach

In addition to the Outreach inherent in activities related to the above areas, GITA has populated its PSIC Office website with all related documents, reports and communications (www.azgita.gov/pscc), and is providing regular written updates regarding its activities to the PSCC, in order to ensure transparency of its efforts.

GITA-PSIC has also hired an Outreach Manager to promote interoperability awareness and collaboration, and an Outreach Plan is being developed to address reaching out to all local, tribal and federal entities not historically represented in meetings of the PSCC and SIEC.

Meetings

Joint PSCC/SIEC Meeting - October 29, 2008 – 1 to 3 PM
Agenda Items: PSIC Office Report; AIRS; Microwave Upgrade; Strategic Technology Reserve; Homeland Security Grant Sources; COM-L Training

Joint PSCC/SIEC Workshop – November 20, 2008 – 10 AM to 4 PM
Agenda Items: Facilitated Discussions regarding Current Status of Interoperable Communications in AZ; Demonstration Project; The Future for Arizona; Next Steps

Joint PSCC/SIEC Meeting – January 28, 2009 – 1 to 3 PM
Agenda Items: Interoperability Governance; Demonstration Project; PSIC Updates

SCIP Implementation Workshop *(PSCC/SIEC)* – February 24, 2009 – 10 AM – 4 PM
Agenda Items: Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan & Strategic Initiative Updates; Federal DHS OEC Resources (presented by Federal DHS representative); National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) & Alignment with AZ SCIP; Interoperability Governance Advancement

Budget

For FY 2008-2009, $880,600 was appropriated from the General Fund to the Government Information Technology Agency to transfer the public safety communications program from the Department of Public Safety. As of December 31, 2008, $191,120.87 had been expended. SB1001 of the 49th Legislature, 1st Special Session, reduced the FY09 GF funding by $77,300 leaving $612,179.13 available for the remainder of the fiscal year. To date, four PSIC support positions have been filled within the GITA, including the Manager of the GITA-PSIC Office and the PSIC Oversight, Outreach and Operations Manager positions within that office.
The remaining balance of $358,500.52 in the FY2005 non-lapsing appropriation for design costs associated with a statewide radio interoperability communication system was also transferred from DPS to GITA, retroactive to July 1, 2008. The entire balance remains at this time.
Expenditures reported by the PSCC/DPS Project Manager for the demonstration project, and for the Conceptual Design Report, occurred prior to the transfer of the remaining balance to GITA.

Additional information regarding the demonstration project is provided, however specific questions regarding expenditures prior to the transfer of PSCC to GITA should be directed to Phil Case, Budget Officer for DPS.

In addition, the $2.2M of non-lapsing Anti-Racketeering Fund monies specified in the General Appropriation Act footnote as legislatively intended for PSCC to use for the detailed design of the long-term interoperability solution has also been transferred from DPS to GITA effective July 1, 2008. To date, none of this funding has been spent. Prior to expending any these monies, GITA-PSIC is required to submit an expenditure plan to JLBC for review.